have been bad in Brazil owing to the glut in coffee and to political disturbances, and in the Argentine owing to the low price of grain and meat. But with the close of the present crisis the Jews can look forward to a further improvement in their economic and social position.

There are about 80,000 Jews in British South Africa, and about 30,000 in Australasia. As the non-Jewish population is mainly engaged in mining, agriculture, and cattle-breeding, the Jews meet with little competition in commerce, and are rising economically. In South Africa they began as small shopkeepers and pedlars in the native villages and among the Boer farmers, but have gradually reached better positions both in commerce and in industry. In the South African gold-mines there are hardly any Jews among the workmen, few in technical posts, a greater number in the administration, but many on the commercial and financial side. They play an important part in the subsidiary trades of gold-production, *e.g.* as dealers in the machinery and tools required for the mines, and hold a dominant position on the Johannesburg stock-exchange. There are many Jewish big landowners, whose farms excel by their organization. The Jews are also numerous in the professions; but there are hardly any Jewish artisans—those who came as

artisans have, after some time, almost all taken to commerce. It is stated that at present 70 per cent of all South African Jews are engaged in commerce, 16 per cent in industry, and 14 per cent in the professions.

(4) THE NEAR EAST

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the economic position of the Jews was fairly uniform throughout the whole of the Near East, which at that time comprised Northern Africa, Western Asia, and European Turkey. They were petty traders, money-lenders, and artisans, and their